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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: MICHAEL S. FOSTER *ET AL.*

APPLICATION No.: 10/046,572

FILED: OCTOBER 26, 2001

FOR: **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR  
INTERSWITCH DEADLOCK AVOIDANCE  
IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

EXAMINER: JASON E. MATTIS

ART UNIT: 2665

CONF. NO: 4162

RECEIVED

FEB 03 2004

Technology Center 2600

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The present communication responds to the Office Action dated November 6, 2003 in the above-identified application. Please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Drawings** are reflected in an attached replacement sheet and are discussed on page 2.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 3.

**Arguments/Remarks** begin on page 8.